GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:52
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2007
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR
Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employment generation opportunities in the agricultural sector in the country have dwindled;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for creating additional employment opportunities in the agricultural sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 52 DUE FOR REPLY ON 19TH NOVEMBER, 2007.

(a) & (b): As per Population Census 1991, the total number of cultivators and agricultural workers in the country engaged in agriculture was 210.68 million. The same has increased to 234.10 million in 2001 Census (latest). As per two most recent quinquennial rounds of National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) on Employment and Unemployment, employment opportunities on Usual Status basis in agriculture sector was estimated at 239.73 million persons in 1999-2000 (55th round) which has gone up to 258.59 million persons in 2004-05 (61st round). As such dependence on agriculture has increased.

(c) & (d): There is no scheme as such to create additional employment in agriculture. However, several development programmes such as Macro Management of Agriculture covering Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) for Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals, Gramin Bhandaran Yojana, Development of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Micro Irrigation, Rural Credit, Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) and National Horticulture Mission (NHM) are being implemented.

Recently, Government has launched two schemes viz.

(i) National Food Security Mission

(NFSM) to increase production of Rice, Wheat and Pulses and

(ii) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) to incentivise the States/UTs to invest more in the agriculture sector. These Schemes are envisaged to increase employment opportunities.

These programmes, apart from creating on-farm and non-farm employment are expected to improve the income realization also by the farmers.